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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/773,193	01/31/2001	Anand Naga Babu	AUS9-2000-0697-US1	4496
46033	7590	11/09/2004	EXAMINER	
IBM CORPORATION (PH) C/O PAUL D. HEYDON, PATENT ATTORNEY 3004 NACOGDOCHES ROAD SAN ANTONIO, TX 78217			GOLD, AVI M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2157	

DATE MAILED: 11/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/773,193	BABU ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Avi Gold	2157	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 January 2001.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This action is responsive to the application filed January 31, 2001. Claims 1-36 are pending. Claims 1-36 represent a system and method for handling location information.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Welch, U.S. Patent No. 6,177,905, further in view of Jain et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,795,858.

Welch teaches the invention substantially as claimed including a location-triggered reminder for mobile user devices (see abstract).

As to claims 1, 7, 13, 19, 25, and 31, Welch teaches a method for handling location information, said method comprising:

acquiring location data regarding a user from a plurality of location sources (col. 1, lines 25-30, Welch discloses multiple mobile devices with GPS);

creating a collection of said location data regarding said user (col. 1, lines 43-56, Welch discloses a collection of data, specifying a geographical location of a user, in an information input facility); and

updating said location data continuously (col. 1, lines 48-53, Welch discloses repeatedly determining new location data).

Welch fails to teach the limitation further including ranking items in said collection according to expected utility.

However, Jain teaches a method and apparatus for metric based server selection (see abstract). Jain teaches the use of ranking items in order of importance (col. 3, lines 45-51).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Welch in view of Jain to rank items according to utility. One would be motivated to do so because ranking allows for efficient retrieval of the most accurate location data.

Regarding claims 2, 8, 14, 20, 26, and 32, Welch teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising:

filtering data in said collection to remove misleading data (col. 1, lines 48-53, Welch discloses a matcher).

Regarding claims 3, 9, 15, 21, 27, and 33, Welch teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising:

consolidating data in said collection to determine the most likely location of said user (col. 1, lines 43-53, Welch discloses keeping track of the users location).

Regarding claim 4, 10, 16, 22, 28, and 34, the method of claim 1, wherein:
said acquiring further comprises acquiring location data regarding more than one user (col. 1, lines 43-56);

said creating further comprises creating collections of said location data regarding more than one user, organized by user (col. 1, lines 48-53); and
said ranking further comprises ranking items in said collections regarding more than one user, according to expected utility (col. 3, lines 45-51, col. 1, lines 21-25, Jain discloses location data regarding more than one user).

Regarding claim 5, 11, 17, 23, 29, and 35, the method of claim 4, further comprising:

filtering data in said collections to remove misleading data (col. 1, lines 48-53).

Regarding claim 6, 12, 18, 24, 30, and 36, the method of claim 4, further comprising: consolidating data in said collections to determine the most likely locations of said users (col. 1, lines 43-53).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,684,250 to Anderson et al.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,091,959 to Souissi et al.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,878,126 to Velamuri et al.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,456,931 to Polidi et al.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,477,387 to Jackson et al.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,659,596 to Dunn et al.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,665,715 to Houri

U.S. Pat. No. 6,668,173 to Greene

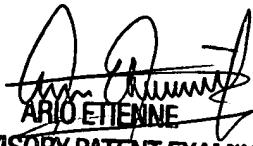
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Avi Gold whose telephone number is 571-272-4002. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-5:30 (1st Friday Off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Avi Gold
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2157

AMG



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